

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

2
3
4
5
6

8

9
10
11
12
13

14

15

16

17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 they desire—even for twice as long as the recognition window was originally
2 assigned to stay open, three times as long, four times as long, and so on.

3 For this reason, St. George teaches away from “the speech recognition
4 engine being configured to enter a dormant state if the utterance is not recognized
5 within the predetermined amount of time”, as recited by claim 1.

6 Salazar is completely silent with respect to a limited time duration window
7 within which to recognize speech input. Therefore, Salazar does not teach or
8 suggest “the speech recognition engine being configured to enter a dormant state if
9 the utterance is not recognized within the predetermined amount of time”, as
10 Applicant claims.

11 For these reasons alone, the references of record, either singly or in
12 combination do not teach or suggest the features of claim 1.

13 Moreover, claim 1 further recites “the speech recognition engine being
14 configured to actively listen for the utterance for a predetermined response time”,
15 “display a countdown graphic that changes with lapsing of the predetermined
16 response time”, and “restart the countdown graphic in the event the speech
17 recognition engine recognizes the utterance.”

18 The Office admits that neither St. George nor Salazar teach “restart the
19 countdown graphic in the event the speech recognition engine recognizes the
20 utterance”, as claim 1 recites. Even in view of this lack of teaching, however, the
21 Office concludes that it would have been obvious to further modify the system of
22 St. George in view of Salazar to teach this feature of claim 1 because such a
23 modification would continually grant the user maximum response time for
24 generating an utterance to be recognized, thereby improving the usability and
25 flexibility of the system. Applicant disagrees.

1 As already discussed above, St. George teaches that a user can keep the
2 voice recognition window open for as long as desired to avoid the “rushed feeling”
3 that one may get knowing that the recognition window may close before voice
4 input is provided. St. George thereby provides the user a maximum amount of
5 time for generating voice input that the Office refers to. Yet, as already pointed
6 out by the Applicant, such a characteristic teaches away from the features of
7 claim 1. Specifically, claim 1 recites “the speech recognition engine being
8 configured to enter a dormant state if the utterance is not recognized within the
9 predetermined amount of time”. The specification points out that this claimed
10 feature is provided to avoid potentially erroneous recognition of an utterance.

11 To illustrate this, consider that a speech recognition system is in a vehicle.
12 If the recognition window is kept open for longer than the claimed “predetermined
13 amount of time”, then the system may recognize extraneous sounds from the
14 vehicle radio (or other erroneous sources of auditory input) and carry out actions
15 not intended by the vehicle operator. Such extraneous recognition of unexpected
16 sounds could lead to a potentially hazardous situation.

17 To address such potentially hazardous situations, the features of claim 1
18 provide a user with a predefined time limit to speak specific commands in the
19 grammar before the system goes back to sleep and stops accepting commands—
20 only reactivating itself in response to recognition of “a starter word that is
21 independent of the utterance”. Therefore, “the countdown graphic”, as Applicant
22 claims, is to provide an indication of how much time is left to utter a command
23 before the system returns to a dormant state, not to “continually grant the user
24 maximum response time for generating an utterance to be recognized” as the
25 Office asserts.

1 For this additional reason, the references of record, either singly or in
2 combination, do not teach or suggest the features of claim 1.

3 Accordingly, for each of the above reasons, the 35 USC §103 rejection of
4 claim 1 should be withdrawn.

5 **Claim 2** has been cancelled.

6 **Claims 3 and 6** depend from claim 1 and are patentably distinguished over
7 the references of record by virtue of this dependency.

8 Accordingly, the 35 USC §103 rejection of claims 3 and 6 should be
9 withdrawn.

10 **Claim 9** recites “a speech recognition engine to recognize the utterances in
11 the grammar within a predetermined response time, the speech recognition engine
12 being configured to enter a dormant state if the utterances are not recognized
13 within the predetermined response of time”. For the reasons discussed above in
14 reference to claim 1, the references of record, either singly or in combination, do
15 not teach or suggest this feature of claim 9.

16 Moreover, claim 9 recites “a countdown graphic that changes with lapsing
17 of the response time, wherein the user interface restarts the countdown graphic in
18 the event the speech recognition engine recognizes the one of the utterances”. For
19 the reasons discussed above in reference to claim 1, the references of record, either
20 singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest this feature of claim 9.

21 Accordingly, the 35 USC §103 rejection of claim 9 should be withdrawn.

22 **Claims 13, 14, 16, and 17** depend from claim 9 and are patentably
23 distinguished over the references of record by virtue of this dependency.

24 Accordingly, the 35 USC §103 rejection of claims 13, 14, 16, and 17
25 should be withdrawn.

1 **Claim 18** recites “wherein the user interface indicates that the speech
2 recognition engine is in a dormant state when at least one of the utterances is not
3 recognized within the predetermined response of time”. For the reasons discussed
4 above in reference to claim 1, the references of record, either singly or in
5 combination, do not teach or suggest this feature of claim 18.

6 Moreover, claim 18 recites “wherein the graphic progress bar is lengthened
7 to its initial position after each recognized user input”. For the reasons discussed
8 above in reference to claim 1, the references of record, either singly or in
9 combination, do not teach or suggest this feature of claim 18.

10 Accordingly, the 35 USC §103 rejection of claim 18 should be withdrawn.

11 **Claim 19** has been cancelled.

12 **Claims 21 and 22** depend from claim 18 and are patentably distinguished
13 over the references of record by virtue of this dependency.

14 Accordingly, the 35 USC §103 rejection of claims 21 and 22 should be
15 withdrawn.

16 **Claim 23** recites “the audio generator being further configured to emit a
17 second audible sound when the fixed response time has expired before the
18 utterance has been recognized, the second sound indicating that the speech
19 recognition system has entered a dormant state”. For the reasons discussed above
20 in reference to claim 1, the references of record, either singly or in combination,
21 do not teach or suggest this feature of claim 23.

22 Moreover, claim 23 recites “a graphic shown on the display that indicates a
23 fixed response time in which the speech recognition system is awaiting receipt of
24 an utterance via the audio input, the graphic diminishing in size with the passage
25 of time, the graphic returning to an original size after each recognized utterance”.

1 For the reasons discussed above in reference to claim 1, the references of record,
2 either singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest this feature of claim 23.

3 Accordingly, for these reasons, the 35 USC §103 rejection of claim 23
4 should be withdrawn.

5 **Claims 24-26** depend from claim 23 and are patentably distinguished over
6 the references of record by virtue of this dependency.

7 Accordingly, the 35 USC §103 rejection of claims 24-26 should be
8 withdrawn.

9 **Claim 27** recites “a graphic that diminishes in size from an original size
10 with the passage of time, the graphic returning to the original size after each
11 recognized utterance”. For the reasons discussed above in reference to claim 1,
12 the references of record, either singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest
13 this feature of claim 27.

14 Claim 27 further recites “the user interface being further configured to emit
15 a second audible sound when a predetermined response time has expired before
16 the utterance has been recognized, the second sound indicating that the speech
17 recognition system has entered a dormant state.” For the reasons discussed above
18 in reference to claim 1, the references of record, either singly or in combination,
19 do not teach or suggest this feature of claim 27.

20 Accordingly, for these reasons, the 35 USC §103 rejection of claim 27
21 should be withdrawn.

22 **Claims 28 and 31** depend from claim 27 and are patentably distinguished
23 over the references of record by virtue of this dependency.

24 Accordingly, the 35 USC §103 rejection of claims 28 and 31 should be
25 withdrawn.

1 **Claim 33** recites “a user interface to provide visual and auditory feedback
2 indicating when a party located at one of the devices can speak, the user interface
3 being configured to play an audible sound when the party can begin speaking and
4 to display a graphic that changes with lapsing of time to indicate a duration that
5 the party can speak, the graphic diminishing in size from an original size with the
6 passage of time, the graphic returning to the original size after each recognized
7 utterance”.

8 For the reasons discussed above in reference to claim 1, the references of
9 record, either singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest this feature of
10 claim 33.

11 Claim 33 further recites “wherein the user interface plays an audible sound
12 upon recognizing an utterance within the duration that the party can speak, the
13 user interface emitting a second audible sound when the duration has expired
14 before the utterance has been recognized, the second sound indicating that the
15 speech recognition system has entered a dormant state.”

16 For the additional reasons discussed above in reference to claim 1, the
17 references of record, either singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest this
18 feature of claim 33.

19 Accordingly, for each of these reasons, the 35 USC §103 rejection of claim
20 33 should be withdrawn.

21 **Claim 34** recites “changing the graphic to indicate passage of the response
22 time such that the graphic diminishes in size from an original size with the passage
23 of time”, and “responsive to recognizing an utterance, presenting the graphic in the
24 original size”.

1 For the reasons discussed above in reference to claim 1, the references of
2 record, either singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest this feature of
3 claim 34.

4 Additionally, claim 34 recites “responsive to expiration of the response
5 time before the audible utterance has been recognized, emitting a second sound to
6 indicate that the speech recognition system has entered a dormant state.”

7 For the additional reasons discussed above in reference to claim 1, the
8 references of record, either singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest this
9 feature of claim 34.

10 Accordingly, for each of these reasons, the 35 USC §103 rejection of
11 claim 34 should be withdrawn.

12 **Claim 36** has been cancelled.

13 **Claim 39** depends from claim 34 and is allowable over the references of
14 record by virtue of this dependency.

15 Accordingly, for each of these reasons, the 35 USC §103 rejection of
16 claim 39 should be withdrawn.

17
18 Claims 4-5, 7-8, 11-12, 15, 20, 29-30, 32, 35, and 37 stand rejected under
19 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over St. George in view of Salazar as
20 applied to claims 1, 9, 18, 23, 27, and 34, and further in view of U.S. Patent No.
21 6,075,534 to VanBuskirk et al. (hereinafter referred to as “VanBuskirk”).
22 Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

23 **Claims 4, 11, 20, 29, and 37** depend from one of claims 1, 9, 18, 27, or 34.
24 For the respective reasons discussed above, in reference to claims 1, 9, 18, 27, and
25 34, dependent claims 4, 11, 20, 29, and 37—by virtue of their respective

1 dependency on an allowable base claim, are allowable over St. George in view of
2 Salazar.

3 In addressing these claims, the Office admits that neither St. George nor
4 Salazar teach or suggest the recited features of these claims. Instead, the Office
5 relies on VanBuskirk's teaching of a status bar that changes color to represent
6 volume level of dictated speech to conclude it would have been obvious to modify
7 St. George in view of Salazar to incorporate the status bar of VanBuskirk to
8 provide a user with an additional option to monitor input response time.

9 Even if this were true, however, VanBuskirk's status bar does not cure the
10 above-discussed deficiencies of St. George in view of Salazar. Therefore, the
11 cited combination does not teach or suggest the features of claims 4, 11, 20, 29,
12 and 37.

13 Accordingly, the 35 USC §103 rejection of claims 4, 11, 20, 29, and 37
14 should be withdrawn.

15 **Claims 5, 12, 30, and 35** depend from one of claims 1, 9, 18, 27, or 34.
16 For the respective reasons discussed above, in reference to claims 1, 9, 18, 27, and
17 34, dependent claims 5, 12, 30, and 35—by virtue of their respective dependency
18 on an allowable base claim, are allowable over St. George in view of Salazar.

19 In addressing these claims, the Office admits that neither St. George nor
20 Salazar teach or suggest "countdown bar comprises a progress bar". Instead, the
21 Office relies on VanBuskirk's status bar that graphically represents change in
22 volume level of dictated speech to conclude it would have been obvious to modify
23 St. George in view of Salazar to incorporate the status bar of VanBuskirk to
24 provide a user with an additional option to monitor input response time. Even if
25 this were true, however, VanBuskirk's status bar does not cure the above-

1 discussed deficiencies of St. George in view of Salazar. Therefore, the cited
2 combination does not teach or suggest the features of claims 5, 12, 30, and 35.

3 Accordingly, the 35 USC §103 rejection of claims 5, 12, 30, and 35 should
4 be withdrawn.

5 **Claims 7, 15, and 32** depend from one of claims 1, 9, or 27. For the
6 respective reasons discussed above, in reference to claims 1, 9, and 27, dependent
7 claims 7, 15, and 32—by virtue of their respective dependency on an allowable
8 base claim, are allowable over St. George in view of Salazar.

9 In addressing these claims, the Office admits that neither St. George nor
10 Salazar teach or suggest “a sleep mode and is awakened to an active mode upon
11 detection of a starter utterance”, as respectively recited by these claims. Instead,
12 the Office relies on VanBuskirk’s status bar (indicating that a system is not active
13 and can be awakened with a proper voice command or by manual means) to
14 conclude that the features of these claims are obvious in view of the cited
15 combination. Applicant disagrees.

16 VanBuskirk’s status bar does not cure the above-discussed deficiencies of
17 St. George in view of Salazar. Therefore, the cited combination does not teach or
18 suggest the features of claims 7, 15, and 32.

19 Accordingly, the 35 USC §103 rejection of claims 7, 15, and 32 should be
20 withdrawn.

21
22 **Claim 8** depends from claim 1 and for the reasons discussed above is
23 allowable over St. George in view of Salazar by virtue of this dependency.

24 In addressing this claim, the Office admits that St. George in view of
25 Salazar does not teach or suggest the features of claim 8. Instead, the Office relies

1 on VanBuskirk' teaching of status information to indicate that a system is in a
2 sleep mode that can be activated responsive to a command (or manual means) to
3 conclude it would have been obvious to modify St. George in view of Salazar to
4 arrive at the feature of claim 8. Applicant disagrees.

5 VanBuskirk's status information and sleep mode that may be activated by a
6 command (or manual means) does not cure the above-discussed deficiencies of St.
7 George in view of Salazar. Therefore, the cited combination does not teach or
8 suggest the features of claims 5, 12, 30, and 35.

9 Accordingly, the 35 USC §103 rejection of claim 8 should be withdrawn.
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

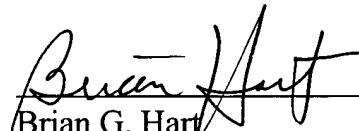
1 **Conclusion**

2 Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for
3 allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of
4 the present application.

5 Respectfully Submitted,

6
7 Dated: 7-18-01

8 By:


9 Brian G. Hart
10 Reg. No. 44,421
11 (509) 324-9256
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Once Amended) A speech recognition system comprising:

a speech recognition engine to recognize an utterance, the speech recognition engine being configured to actively listen for the utterance for a predetermined response time, the speech recognition engine being configured to enter a dormant state if the utterance is not recognized within the predetermined amount of time, the speech recognition system remaining in the dormant state until recognition of a starter word that is independent of the utterance; and

a user interface to provide visual and auditory feedback indicating whether the speech recognition engine recognizes the utterance, the user interface being configured to: (a) play an audible sound indicating recognition of the utterance; (b) [and to] display a countdown graphic that changes with lapsing of the predetermined response time; (c) restart the countdown graphic in the event the speech recognition engine recognizes the utterance.

2. (Cancelled).

9. (Twice Amended) A speech recognition system comprising:

an application;

a vocabulary accessible by the application, the vocabulary holding a set of utterances applicable to the application;

a grammar that holds a subset of the utterances in the vocabulary;

a speech recognition engine to recognize the utterances in the grammar within a predetermined response time, the speech recognition engine being

1 configured to enter a dormant state if the utterances are not recognized within the
2 predetermined response of time; and

3 a user interface to display a countdown graphic that changes with lapsing of
4 the response time, wherein the user interface restarts the countdown graphic in the
5 event the speech recognition engine recognizes the one of the utterances.

6
7 18. (Twice Amended) A user interface for an speech recognition system,
8 the user interface comprising:

9 a display; and

10 a graphic progress bar shown on the display that indicates a response time
11 in which the speech recognition system is awaiting a user to speak, the progress
12 bar shortening with passage of the response time, wherein the graphic progress bar
13 is lengthened to its initial position after each recognized user input, wherein the
14 user interface plays an audible sound when the speech recognition engine
15 recognizes one of the utterances within the predetermined response time, and
16 wherein the user interface indicates that the speech recognition engine is in a
17 dormant state when at least one of the utterances is not recognized within the
18 predetermined response of time.

19
20 19. (Cancelled).

21
22 23. (Once Amended) A user interface for an speech recognition system,
23 the user interface comprising:

24 a display;

25 an audio input to receive audible utterances;

1 a graphic shown on the display that indicates a fixed response time in
2 which the speech recognition system is awaiting receipt of an utterance via the
3 audio input, the graphic diminishing in size with the passage of time, the graphic
4 returning to an original size after each recognized utterance; and

5 an audio generator to emit a[n] first audible sound when the speech
6 recognition system recognizes the utterance, the audio generator being further
7 configured to emit a second audible sound when the fixed response time has
8 expired before the utterance has been recognized, the second sound indicating that
9 the speech recognition system has entered a dormant state.

10
11 27. (Once Amended) A vehicle computer system comprising:

12 a computer;

13 an open platform operating system executing on the computer, the
14 operating system being configured to support multiple applications; and

15 a speech recognition system to detect utterances used to control at least one
16 of the applications running on the computer, the speech recognition system having
17 a user interface to provide visual and auditory feedback indicating whether an
18 utterance is recognized, the user interface being configured to play a[n] first
19 audible sound indicating recognition of the utterance and to display a graphic that
20 [changes with passage of the response time] diminishes in size from an original
21 size with the passage of time, the graphic returning to the original size after each
22 recognized utterance, the user interface being further configured to emit a second
23 audible sound when a predetermined response time has expired before the
24 utterance has been recognized, the second sound indicating that the speech
25 recognition system has entered a dormant state.

1
2 33. (Twice Amended) A collaboration system involving multiple
3 interconnected devices comprising:

4 a voice input mechanism resident at each of the devices;

5 an audio output system resident at each of the devices; and

6 a user interface to provide visual and auditory feedback indicating when a
7 party located at one of the devices can speak, the user interface being configured
8 to play an audible sound when the party can begin speaking and to display a
9 graphic that changes with lapsing of time to indicate a duration that the party can
10 speak, the graphic diminishing in size from an original size with the passage of
11 time, the graphic returning to the original size after each recognized utterance,
12 wherein the user interface plays an audible sound upon recognizing an utterance
13 within the duration that the party can speak, the user interface emitting a second
14 audible sound when the duration has expired before the utterance has been
15 recognized, the second sound indicating that the speech recognition system has
16 entered a dormant state.

17
18 34. (Twice Amended) A method for operating a speech recognition
19 system, comprising the following steps:

20 initiating a response time in which to receive an audible utterance;

21 displaying a graphic representing the response time;

22 playing a first sound when an audible utterance is recognized; [and]

23 changing the graphic to indicate passage of the response time such that the
24 graphic diminishes in size from an original size with the passage of time;
25

1 responsive to recognizing an utterance, presenting the graphic in the
2 original size; and

3 responsive to expiration of the response time before the audible utterance
4 has been recognized, emitting a second sound to indicate that the speech
5 recognition system has entered a dormant state.

6
7 36. (Cancelled).
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25